

REMARKS

Applicant cancels the claims identified in the Restriction Requirement dated March 25, 2005, namely, claims 12, 13, 16, 27, 28, 31, 34, 37 and 40, identified by the Examiner as belonging to the non-elected group (Group II). Applicant reserves the right to file these canceled claims in a divisional application.

New claims 41-47 are added, hence, claims 1-11, 14-15, 17-26, 29-30, 32-33, 35-36 and 41-47 are all the claims pending in the application. No excess claim fee is believed due. New claims 41-47 are supported in the written description at least at page 41, lines 19-27 of the specification.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23 - 26, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38 and 39 are amended.

Claims 1-11, 14-15, 17-26, 29-30, 32-33, 35-36 and 38-39, which are all the claims pending in the application, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The claims are amended and it is respectfully submitted that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 14-15, 17-24, 26, 29-30, 32-33, 35-36 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Matyas et al. reference (hereinafter, "Matyas"). Applicant respectfully submits that Matyas does not anticipate the claims.

Matyas discloses a method of encrypting data based on an encryption key. However, Matyas does not disclose substituting recording information with other information and compensating for the substituted information by performing error correction, as in the present application.

The claims in the present application require substitution information that is generated on the basis of identification information that is unique to the recording media (e.g., a disc). A part of the recording information is substituted with the substitution information. Even though part of the recording information is changed by substituting part of the recording information with the substitution information, the substitution information has a data length within a range that is correctable by error correction. Therefore, the recording information can be reproduced normally simply by performing error correction.

Claim 1, for example, recites “generating substitute information by using identification information unique to each of information recording media in which recording information is to be recorded” and “substituting part of the recording information with the generated substitute information,” in which “the generated substitute information has a data length within a range correctable by an error correction capability.” It is respectfully submitted that Matyas does not teach or suggest these limitations as recited in claim 1, for example.

The Office Action cites col. 5, lines 30-50, col. 9, lines 42-53 and Fig. 10 of Matyas as disclosing these limitations of claim 1. However, while Matyas discloses a diskette with a unique serial number, Matyas does not disclose using that serial number to generate information that is then substituted with part of the information recorded on the diskette. Rather, Matyas discloses a using the diskette serial number to obtain a password to access an encrypted program on the disk by placing a telephone call to the software vendor who issues the password based on the diskette serial number. See col. 5, lines 51 to col. 6, line 58.

Further, in the present application, before reproducing the recording information, the identification information is generated on the basis of the substitution information. Referring to

claim 29, for example, the recording information, part of which is substituted with the generated substitute information, is detected and the identification information is extracted from the substitute information. The extracted identification information is then compared with the identification information of the disc. If the recording information is copied illegally onto the disc, the identification information recorded as the substitution information will not be equal to the identification information of the disc since the identification information is unique to each disc. As a result, the illegally copied information is not reproduced.

Since Matyas does not disclose the claimed substitution information, illegally copied information can be reproduced if the encryption key is read as an RF signal, for example, as described on page 3 of the specification.

As Matyas does not disclose all the limitations of the claims, it is respectfully submitted that Matyas does not anticipate the claims.

Claims 8 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matyas in view of the Weiss reference (hereinafter, "Weiss"). It is respectfully submitted that Weiss does not disclose or suggest the features described above that are missing from Matyas. Since claims 8 and 25 depend from claims 1 and 17, respectively, it is respectfully submitted that the asserted Matyas/Weiss combination does not render claims 8 and 25 unpatentable.

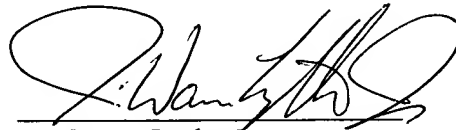
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application Number: 09/838,206

Our Ref: Q64192
Art Unit: 2132

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 27, 2006